



CITY OF CRESTVIEW

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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February 28, 2005

RECEIVED

Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Neil Kirkman Bldg.
Room A 437 M.S. 40
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

Office of the Director
Florida Highway Patrol

Colonel Knight:

The 653rd Signal Company based at the Florida National Guard Armory in Crestview returned home Friday, February 25th, 2005 after 13 months deployment in support of "Iraqi Freedom". Their mission was to set up and maintain several forms of communication.

The return of the 653rd was a huge success due in part to the great spirit of cooperation of the Florida Highway Patrol, Troop A, Commander Captain Dan Parkton and Lieutenant Gary L. Howze, II and several troopers. The local F.H.P. worked with the Okaloosa Sheriff's Department, the Crestview Police and Fire Department, and the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee to provide safety for the thousands of citizens that lined the miles of highway to the Armory.

We are fortunate to have people like Capt. Parkton and Lt. Howze that go "far beyond the normal call of duty" to provide services and safety to our area.

Please convey my sincere thanks for their outstanding performance on Friday.

If my office can be of service to you, please call me at 682-3812.

Yours truly,

George H. Whitehurst
Mayor